

were to appear in one of their councils incognito, he perhaps could be voted and excommunicated from the church, that is if he wore his seamless garment, or one not cut and made over their pattern, and that too by people who profess to be better Christians than others who profess to be Christians.

What sin! What shame! What idolatry! What foolishness!

It is possible for a man, or set of men, to make an idol of his pet idea of religion, by setting it up and requiring the world to fall down to it,—that is his idea of cuts and customs, which he has no Scripture for. Well did Christ say to the Pharisees that through their tradition they made the word of God of none effect. Mark vii, 13. What more can the heathen do who refuses to receive the word of God, than those who make the word of God of none effect by their traditions? Then again, Paul says, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." Gal. vi, 14.

Paul says in Gal. v, 4, that "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Now if a man is not justified by the law, and if Christ is become of no effect to him who may keep the law, and if he who keeps the law and is justified in it is fallen from grace, then what will be the end of those who justify themselves in traditions in keeping them?

He who preaches traditions is preaching and serving a dead idol, and his affections are set upon a dead God, and he who adores anything else than God has a false god and is an idolator.

Now I say this is all kindness to our German Baptist Brethren, for I have only the good of their souls at heart, but I say it in hope that this item may fall under the notice of some one of them who may think seriously of these things and upon what his heart is fastened, whether upon the creature or the creator.

GEO. A. COPP.

AN INQUIRY.

FREMONT, IOWA, May 20, 1894.

S. J. HARRISON,

DEAR SIR:—I have been a reader of the EVANGELIST for some years and do not wish to be deprived of the many good letters to be found in its columns. Though I am not a member of the Brethren church I am acquainted with a good many of its writers and ministers, etc. I believe in the "Bible Alone" doctrine. Please inform me through the EVANGELIST or otherwise if there is any Brethren church or congregation of Brethren in Mahaska Co., Iowa.

Respectfully yours,

J. S. Beery.

[Any one who has the desired information please impart it to the above address. ED.]

A CARD OF THANKS.

RIPON, CALIF., May 23rd, 1894.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—I write to express my thanks to the Ladies' Society, for the BRETHREN EVANGELIST and other kindness that I have received. The paper is a great comfort to me. I have had a long sick spell and cannot get out yet, but with God's help I am getting better, and oh, what a comfort to have such a friend to look to. My trust in Jesus has been my guiding star through my illness.

Your sister in Christ,

SARAH BANISTER.

A SMALL-POX SCARE.

AKRON, IND., May 28th, 1894.

The report for the New Highland Church for May is as follows: We had only one meeting this month, and at that meeting one was added to Highland congregation by letter from the Burn's Chapel Church. Our meeting was to be last night and this forenoon, but a small-pox scare deprived us of the privilege. Our minister was within stone-throw of the church, but on the strength of flying reports, turned his back toward the church and his face homeward and disappeared; which was a disappointment to quite a good many.

Yours Truly,

SARAH C. STEPHEY.

THOUGHTS ON THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF INDIANA.

PERU, IND., May 27, 1894.

BROTHER HARRISON:—I take this opportunity of telling of our Ministerial meeting. First, the weather was very inclement. It rained every day making it very disagreeable for both us and our visitors. Second, so many of our ministers failed to put in their appearance. We were expecting at least fifteen or twenty and there were only seven. Namely, Brethren Summers, Perry, Rench, Teeter, Vail, Fowlis, and Sister Grossnickle. They worked with untiring zeal, especially Brethren Perry and Rench. Now, Brother ministers, I feel that you have neglected your duty by not attending our meeting. Any thing that is worth doing at all is worth doing well. Of course you all have an excuse, but is it sufficient to satisfy? If these meetings were attended as they should be they would be of great benefit. The next meeting is located at North Manchester; a very good program is prepared. Will you attend and make the meeting a success, or will you stay and let the faithful few come and do all the work? With all our disappointment we had a very good meeting. It did us good; the neighbors enjoyed it very much and we feel we have been benefited. We had a very good communion which will be remembered for a long time.

Brother Summers remained over Friday night and preached one of his old fashioned sermons which made us recall many incidents. He has served this church as pastor for almost seven

years. May God spare his life and give him health that he may yet be a power for good. I will close hoping God's blessings rest on us all.

Yours in Christ,

JOHN M. FOX.

P. S. Brother Teeter, of Rossville, came the week before our Ministerial meeting and gave us some very good sermons. For a young man and the experience he has had he does *exceedingly* well. He will be one in the first ranks in a short time.

J. M. FOX.

DEAR BROTHER HARRISON:—Deeply do I sympathize with you in the Home giving of your dear Homer. But it is a mighty gain to you both. You have made a long upward stride in this fiery trial of bereavement. God is Jehovah Rophi still, even if our faith is too weak to apprehend Him in that character. We *think* we have faith in Jesus, because our faith relates to realities that lie beyond the reach of the senses. But in thousands of instances what is claimed to be faith is no more than intellectual assent. To *believe* in the *Christian* sense is the great marvel of grace, and the human condition for the fulfillment of Christ's supernatural manifestations. "LORD increase our faith."

C. H. BALSBAUGH.

THE WORK IN AND AROUND HUNTINGTON.

HUNTINGTON, IND., Apr. 20th, '94.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—I will give you some items from this point, will first locate our surroundings. We own a joint interest in the G. B. church property six miles northeast of the city. I conduct services on the second and fourth Sabbaths at 10.30 A. M. Bible class conducted by Bro. J. M. Rittgers on same day a 9 A. M. (He has an attack of nervous prostration and by advice of physicians must do no preaching for the time being. He requests that this fact be noted.) Five miles in the same direction is the Bracken congregation. Services on third Sabbath at 10 A. M. Prayer meeting weekly on Wednesday evening.

Brother J. H. Palmer and family called recently. We went mushroom hunting but we became so much absorbed in church work that we found but few in the same woods where others got large quantities the same day. Bro. John stated that he would contract some more regular work. I agreed to assist him with my spare Sabbaths. He may handle the loaves and I will bring the crumbs, and if the brethren will judiciously gather up the fragments there will be a supply for all.

While Brother John was holding meeting in Illinois I conducted services with the Roanoke class four miles northeast of the city, also with the Zanesville brethren ten miles east of the city. They are zealous workers and I hope through the kind providence to meet them again. I was ordained a minister among the G. B., or Good Brethren, twenty years

ago. We had a membership of one hundred and fifty, then came the division in all of its glory, I mean vain glory, and scattered us to the four quarters of the earth. Now I see that in our surroundings we can gather up the fragments more readily; and I give it as an undeniable fact that if we would put forth proper efforts in town and cities better results would follow. After working with the Brethren church seven years I was induced to put on the G. B. harness. I pulled along for a year as best I could, but those hard lumps of usage and custom were under the collar. To me, as I view the Gospel, it was galling; so I put on the Brethren collar again and it fits better than ever. A prominent G. B. elder told me, speaking of our city, that we could do a good work there if we had the money. Now brethren, let us go to work in earnest. Put the Gospel yoke on, pull together, and the money will come. I am personally acquainted with individuals in our city that have the money and will give it out liberally if we just go to work. We have brethren specially adapted for that work. By all means work them while we can. I believe in a consecrated and concentrated effort and God's blessing will follow.

Fraternally,

R. K. BINKLEY.

TWENTY-SEVEN ADDITIONS.

MASONTOWN, PA., May 31, 1894.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—I have spent the past seven months preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The known result of which effort has been twenty-seven additions to the Brethren Church, eighteen of whom I baptized. The number of confessions and additions to other churches is by me unknown; for I have only sixty-two names recorded. In 187 days I preached 207 sermons, holding thirteen protracted meetings, eight of these outside of Brethren precincts. Five years active experience in the ministry has taught me that prejudice against woman's preaching is not as strong as one might suppose. I have learned also that opposition to her Christian labors exists the least in the purest hearts where motives are the brightest, best.

MARY M. STERLING.

A REFORMED SISTER UNITES WITH US.

FARMERSVILLE, O., May 15th, 1894.

One step by faith

Lightens the burden.

Dear Brothers and Sisters who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb: I feel inclined to speak to you through the EVANGELIST. I am a new reader of the paper and have found it very interesting and strengthening; and what is it that we need more than spiritual strength.

I had been trying to be a Christian for the past sixteen years but alas I found myself standing still, cold and